REMARKS

The Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jungck et al., U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0065938 ("Jungck") in view of Lewis et al., U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0110396 ("Lewis"). Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

As indicated in the Office Action (see page 3, beginning on line 5), the Examiner acknowledges that Jungck fails to disclose the selection of session cache entries for deletion and their subsequent deletion when network overload occurs. To overcome this deficiency the Examiner relies on Lewis.

Applicants' attorney has read the excerpts from Lewis, namely page 12, section 120, and page 13, sections 130 and 136, referred to in the Office Action in which the Examiner states that Lewis discloses the claimed selection and deletion of classified cache entries. However, it is respectfully submitted that these excerpts do not disclose, nor suggest, the selection and deletion of the claimed classified, session cache entries.

In general, Lewis is directed at methods for predicting Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks. As set forth in Lewis, it is important to minimize false alarms. One way in which Lewis recommends that false alarms be minimized is through the use of so-called "Key Events." These Key Events

relate to "Key Variables" of an attack. By using the Key Events, false alarms may be prevented with only small reductions in attack detection rates.

It is also respectfully submitted that Lewis' Key Events or Key Variables are unrelated to cache classes or classified cache entries.

It is also respectfully submitted that the claims of the present invention, which require the selection and deletion of classified, session cache entries would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the present application was filed upon reading the disclosures of Jungck or Lewis either separately or in combination because neither singularly or in combination suggests such classified, session cache entries.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of claims 1-30.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John E. Curtin at the telephone number of the undersigned below.
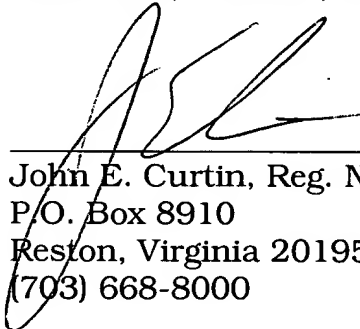
In the event this Response does not place the present application in condition for allowance, applicant requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (703) 668-8000 to schedule a personal interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By _____

John E. Curtin, Reg. No. 37,602
P/O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

JEC:psy